

Railroad Crossings

(MN statute 169.28 and MN rule 7470.1100 (F))

You are mandated to stop at all railroad crossings, except those marked "Exempt," whether loaded with passengers or empty at the time of your crossing. You must activate the school bus' four-way hazard warning lights not less than 100 feet from the railroad tracks and stop not less than 15 feet nor more than 50 feet from the railroad tracks. The use of your eight-lamp warning lamp system is prohibited for this purpose. While stopped, you must fully open the entrance door and driver's window to look and listen for approaching trains. Once assured the way is clear, you may proceed with caution without stopping until the rear of the bus clears the railroad tracks by at least 10 feet.

Driver's Responsibility for Child Safety

(MN statute 169.443 and MN rule 7470.1100 (E))

It is your responsibility to ensure the safety of all the students in care. If a student must cross a roadway, you must either use hand signals or word communication to let the student know when it is safe to cross. In addition you must continue to monitor the student and traffic while the child crosses the road.

Stop-Arm Violations

(MN statute 169.444)

With so many driver distractions, it is inevitable that there will be school bus stop-arm violations. When these events happen remain calm as your primary responsibility is the safety of the students. Follow your school or school district's policies regarding the reporting of stop-arm violations. A sample stop-arm violation form is available online at www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol. Click on the "Commercial Vehicles" link.

Cellular Phone Use

(MN statute 169.443 sub. 9)

A school bus driver may not operate a school bus while communicating over, or otherwise operating, a cellular phone for personal reasons, whether hand-held or hands free, when in motion.

Requirements for Commercial Driver's License SCHOOL BUS Endorsement



Message from the Public Safety Commissioner



Dear School Bus Transportation Professional,

As a School Bus Transportation Professional, you are an integral part of the transportation network and carry Minnesota's most valuable resource — our children. On an average day, Minnesota school buses safely transport

more than 800,000 children to and from school and other school-related activities.

Sadly, events on our highways endanger the safety of our children. While a school bus provides excellent crash protection, it is your training, skill, and performance that prevent these incidents from becoming headlines. You are to be commended for your role in safely transporting Minnesota children.

As a professional, you are held to a high standard. To assist you in maintaining that standard, the following safety reminders have been assembled for your information. The partnership created between school bus manufacturers, educators, law enforcement personnel, parents, children, and you exists for the mutual benefit of all.

The future of our state, nation and the world is in your hands. Handle it with care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Campion".

Michael Campion, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Commercial Driver's License / School Bus Endorsement (MN 171.02 and 171.321)

You are required to possess a commercial driver's license with a school bus endorsement when operating a Type A, B, C or D school bus. In addition, if the school bus is designed to transport more than 15 passengers you must have a passenger endorsement. To maintain a valid school bus endorsement you must have no disqualifying offenses as defined in Minnesota state statutes, which include any felony, driving under the influence or criminal sexual conduct convictions. You must have your driver's license in possession while operating any motor vehicle and your license must reflect your current street address.

Commercial Driver's License Violation Reporting (Federal Regulation 49CFR 383.31 and 383.33)

A person who operates a commercial motor vehicle and who is convicted of violating, in any type of motor vehicle, a state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation), shall notify his/her current employer of such conviction. This notification must be made within 30 days of your conviction.

You must immediately notify your current employer of any suspension, revocation, cancellation, loss of privilege, or disqualification of your commercial driver's license.

A "Notification of Employer" form is online at www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol. Click on the "Commercial Vehicles" link.

Physical Qualification Requirements (MN rule 7414.0100 through 7414.2100)

You must be physically qualified to operate a Type A, B, C or D school bus. You must submit a new school bus physical certificate every two years to maintain a valid school bus endorsement. A blank copy of the Minnesota School Bus Physical is available online at the State Patrol Web site. Visit www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol, then click on the "Commercial

Vehicles" link, followed by the "School Bus" link. The direct link is: www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol/comveh/schoolbus/pdf/trnman29.pdf

Many vehicle operators have a restriction attached to their driver's license requiring corrective lenses to operate a motor vehicle. Should you undergo corrective vision surgery, you must retake the vision portion of your driver's license exam, this may be done at any Minnesota Driver's License Exam Station. You are also required to remove this restriction from your school bus physical certificate otherwise you are not physically qualified to drive. If you are found in violation of the corrective lens restriction you will receive a citation and you will be unable to drive.

Pre-Trip Inspections (MN rule 7470.1300)

No school bus shall be driven unless the driver or other designated person has inspected the vehicle to ensure that, at a minimum, the following parts and accessories are in good working order: service brakes, including trailer brake connections; parking (hand) brakes; steering mechanism; lighting devices and reflectors; tires; fluid levels (this will require you to access the engine compartment); horn; windshield wiper or wipers; rear-vision and crossover mirrors, including their proper adjustment; eight-lamp system; and stop arm. A copy of the current daily pre-trip inspection report must be carried in the bus.

If you fail to properly complete/document your pre-trip inspection or do not have in your possession the current pre-trip inspection report you will be issued a citation.

Seat Belts (MN statute 169.447 sub 2)

Minnesota law mandates you wear your seat belt. Seat belts have been proven to hold a driver securely behind the wheel in the event of a crash, greatly increasing your ability to maintain control of the school bus and minimizing your chance for serious injury or death. If you are found in violation of not wearing your seat belt you will be issued a citation.